

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No. 10/518,994
Filing Date December 21, 2004
Inventor Michael Zaiser
Group Art Unit 3723
Assignor Carl Zeiss SMT AG
Examiner Maurina T. Rachuba
Attorney's Docket No. LO29-020
Title: Method and Apparatus for Aligning Optical Elements

SUMMARY of EXAMINER INTERVIEW
held February 18, 2010

To: Commissioner for Patents
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REMARKS

Applicant's representative held an interview with Examiner Maurina T. Rachuba on February 18, 2010. Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Rachuba for her time and attention to this matter.

Independent claims 16 and 36, and respective dependent claims, are allowed. Independent claims 21 and 26, and respective dependent claims, are rejected. Applicant's representative presented the Examiner with proposed

amendment language with the purpose of amending independent claims 21 and 26 and putting independent claims 21 and 26 in form for allowance.

Examiner Rachuba has agreed that amending independent claims 21 and 26 with the following language will put independent claims 21 and 26 in form for allowance: *"...wherein an entirety of the outer peripheral configuration of the adapter part comprises a cylindrical configuration having one side with an opening extending partially into the cylindrical configuration, the opening configured as a cylindrical opening, and wherein the alignment reference structure is positioned along the diameter within the cylindrical opening."*

Please note, for consistency with the language of independent claim 21, the above amendment language must be slightly modified to recite: *"... wherein an entirety of the outer peripheral configuration of the adapter part comprises a cylindrical configuration having one side with an opening extending partially into the cylindrical configuration, the opening configured as a cylindrical opening, and wherein the structure of the alignment reference ~~structure~~ is positioned along the diameter within the cylindrical opening."*

Putting independent claims 21 and 26 in form for allowance effectively puts the application in form for allowance.

Examiner Rachuba has graciously stated that by "Examiner's Amendment" she will amend independent claims 21 and 26 with the above-identified language to put the application in form for allowance. Moreover, Examiner Rachuba states that she will charge the USPTO account (account no. 021567)


of Applicant's representative with the Extension Fee (\$130.00) due for being in the one-month extension period for response.

Upon review, Applicant's representative notes that some of the dependent claims will need to be amended to put the dependent claims in conformance with the newly-added amendment language of independent claims 21 and 26. Furthermore, dependent claims 24 and 28 will be canceled. To facilitate putting the application in form for allowance, Applicant's representative presents herewith a copy of the pending claims and includes the amended claims (and canceled claims).

Examiner Rachuba has noted that she will call Applicant's representative to resolve any issues that may develop for allowing the application, particularly upon further review of the prior art.

Again, Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Rachuba for her extensive time and attention to this matter.

Dated: 2-18-10

Respectfully submitted,
By: 
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PENDING CLAIMS FOR LO29-020

With amendments approved by the Examiner during the Interview of February 18, 2010 to put the application in form for allowance

Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions

Claims 1-15 (previously Canceled).

16. (Previously presented) A method for aligning a spectacle lens comprising:

providing a spectacle lens comprising a machined first side and a second side, the second side of the spectacle lens is secured to a first holder by a first connecting material;

positioning the first holder relative an adapter part, the adapter part comprising an alignment reference and a marking, wherein the positioning comprises aligning the first holder relative the alignment reference;

aligning said spectacle lens relative a second holder using the marking of the adapter part; and

after the aligning of the spectacle lens relative the second holder, providing a second connecting material to the second holder.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

connecting said spectacle lens to said second holder with the second connecting material;

inserting said second holder in a retaining device; and

removing said first holder, said first connecting material and said adapter part from said spectacle lens.

Claim 18 (previously Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the positioning of said first holder comprises using a collet chuck in physical contact with the first holder.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said spectacle lens comprises an organic spectacle lens, and wherein said organic spectacle lens comprises an organic progressive lens.

21. (Currently amended) An adapter part for aligning spectacle lenses, the spectacle lenses having a machined first side and a second side, said second side is provided with a first holder, the adapter part comprising:

an alignment reference and a collet chuck, the collet chuck in physical contact with the first holder, the alignment reference and the collet chuck position said first holder relative said adapter part;

markings align said spectacle lenses relative other structures; and

wherein said alignment reference comprises a transverse web extending generally perpendicularly to an optical axis of the spectacle lenses; and

wherein an entirety of the outer peripheral configuration of the adapter part comprises a cylindrical configuration having one side with an opening extending partially into the cylindrical configuration, the opening configured as a cylindrical opening, and wherein the structure of the alignment reference is positioned along the diameter within the cylindrical opening.

Claims 22-23 (previously Canceled).

Claim 24 (**Currently** Canceled).

25. (**Currently** amended) The adapter part as claimed in claim 24 21 wherein said markings are provided on another side of the adapter part opposite the one side with said ~~cavity~~ cylindrical opening.

26. (**Currently** amended) An adapter part for aligning spectacle lenses, the adapter part comprising:

an alignment reference structure comprising physical material and extending from a surface of the adapter part, the alignment reference structure positions a first holder relative the adapter part;

markings align said spectacle lenses relative other structures; and

wherein said alignment reference structure comprises a transverse web extending generally perpendicularly to an optical axis of the spectacle lenses; and

wherein an entirety of the outer peripheral configuration of the adapter part comprises a cylindrical configuration having one side with an opening extending partially into the cylindrical configuration, the opening configured as a cylindrical opening, and wherein the alignment reference structure is positioned along the diameter within the cylindrical opening.

Claim 27 (previously Canceled).

Claim 28 (**Currently** Canceled).

29. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the positioning of said first holder comprises providing a collet chuck in physical contact with the first connecting material.

30. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising releasing the spectacle lens from the adapter part by applying pressure to the adapter part along an axis parallel to an optical axis of the spectacle lens.

31. (**Currently** amended) The adapter part as claimed in claim 21 wherein the collet chuck is in physical contact with the connecting material.

32. (Previously presented) The adapter part as claimed in claim 21 wherein the alignment reference is in physical contact with the first holder.

33. (Previously presented) The adapter part as claimed in claim 26 wherein the markings comprise cross hairs.

34. (Previously presented) The adapter part as claimed in claim 26 wherein the alignment reference structure extends in a single direction.

35. (Previously presented) The adapter part as claimed in claim 26 wherein the alignment reference structure extends across an the cylindrical opening in the adapter part.

36. (Previously presented) A method of using an adapter part for aligning spectacle lenses, the method comprising:

providing a spectacle lens comprising a machined first side and a second side;

securing the second side of the spectacle lens to a holder;

providing an adapter part comprising a collet chuck, the collet chuck comprising an alignment reference extending generally perpendicularly to an optical axis of the spectacle lenses;

aligning the collet chuck relative the holder by physically contacting the holder and the alignment reference; and

releasing the spectacle lens from the collet chuck by applying pressure to the collet chuck along an axis parallel to an optical axis of the spectacle lens.

Claim 37 (previously Canceled).

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the spectacle lens during machining of the first side is oriented in a position in a plane perpendicular to an optical axis of the spectacle lens, and wherein the aligning using the marking of the adapter part comprises providing the

spectacle lens in the same position in the plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the spectacle lens.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the second side of the spectacle lens is concave, and wherein the connecting material contacts substantially an entirety of the second side.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising providing a protective layer over the second side of the spectacle lens.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising providing a plastic film over the second side of the spectacle lenses.

42. (Previously presented) The adapter part of claim 21 wherein the markings comprise only two lines intersecting.

43. (Previously presented) The adapter part of claim 26 wherein the markings comprise two lines intersecting at right angles.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising spraying a coating over the second side of the spectacle lens.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the providing of the second connecting material to the second holder further comprises providing the second connecting material simultaneously to the spectacle lens.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the providing of the second connecting material comprises injecting the second connecting material onto the second holder.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising removing the first holder together with the first connecting material from the spectacle lens.